

NEWS RELEASE
Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Federal Building
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: October 13, 2004

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**IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE OF
MONTE CRISTO AND BLACKSMITH FORK PRESCRIBED BURNS**

Weather permitting; parts of the Monte Cristo Prescribed Burn could be implemented, Friday, October 15th and Saturday, October 16th. The plan is to burn 4 units (A, B, G and H), which total approximately 1,800 acres. The remaining 5 units will be burned as conditions allow. The burn areas are located south and east of Highway 39, approximately 13 miles west of Woodruff, and approximately 35 miles east of Ogden. Visitors can expect short delays along Utah Highway 39 due to burning activities and possible smoke inversions.

Also, weather permitting parts of the Blacksmith Fork Prescribed burn could be implemented starting Sunday, October 17th. The Blacksmith Fork burn consists of 13 units totaling approximately 5,000 acres and are located approximately 10 miles southeast of Logan, Utah and 10 miles northeast of Hyrum, Utah.

For public and firefighter safety, the burn areas and all roads and trails leading into the burn areas will be closed during burning operations. The purpose of both the Monte Cristo and Blacksmith Fork Burns is to improve aspen and mountain brush regeneration and to improve range and wildlife habitat conditions.

To meet resource and safety concerns, prescribed fires must only occur when a specific set of conditions are met. These conditions include air, soil and vegetation moisture levels, temperatures, wind direction and speeds, smoke dispersal and expected fire behavior. These prescribed fires will

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only be ignited when fuel moistures and weather conditions will allow the smoke to drift away from communities near the burn areas. Qualified fire personnel will use hand held drip torches and a helicopter to ignite fire in the designated areas. Engines and hand crews will monitor the fires until completed. Depending on weather conditions, lighting of these prescribed burns could take place from October through November 2004.

For more information and maps you can go to our web site at www.fs.fed.us/r4/wcnf

MEDIA NOTE: PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT YOU WILL NEED APPROPRIATE FIRE RETARDANT CLOTHING (NOMEX) AND PROPER FOOTWEAR (LEATHER BOOTS UP PAST THE ANKLE) IF YOU WISH TO ACCESS THE FIRE AREA.

MONTE CRISTO BURN UNITS A AND B WILL BE VERY VISABLE FROM UTAH HIGHWAY 39.